

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An automatic rice cooking apparatus carrying out a series of steps while placing a rice kettle at a predetermined position, provided with a water supplier for supplying water into the rice kettle and a discharger for discharging water supplied into the rice kettle and/or others to the outside, where a rice supplier supplies a predetermined amount of rice into the rice kettle and then a rice boiling means boils the rice, characterized in that the apparatus comprises:

a rice kettle washing means for washing an inner wall of the rice kettle placed at the predetermined position after the rice boiling; and

a controller for controlling the water supplier, the discharger, the rice supplier, the rice boiling means and the rice kettle washing means.

2. (Original) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises a rice rinsing means and the controller operates control so that the rinsing means rinses rice supplied into the rice kettle by the rice supplier and then the rice boiling means boils the rice.

3. (Original) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the controller operates such a control where the rice rinsing by the rice rinsing means is not performed according to a setting.

4. (Previously Presented) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the rice kettle washing means serves as the rice rinsing means, and the water supplier and the discharger are in common use for the rice rinsing and the rice kettle washing.

5. (Previously Presented) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rice kettle washing means has a brush arranged in the rice kettle and moving along an inner wall of the rice kettle when washing.

6. (Previously Presented) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rice kettle washing means has an ultrasonic generator propagating ultrasonic waves to water supplied into the rice kettle.

7. (Original) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the ultrasonic generator has a plurality of ultrasonic transducers equally arranged around the periphery of the rice kettle.

8. (Previously Presented) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the discharger has a suction port vertically movable to the lower limit position above an inner bottom surface of the rice kettle by a predetermined distance.

9. (Original) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the controller controls the discharger so that the suction port is stopped above the lower limit position when the rice kettle washing is started and then lowered gradually to reach the lower limit position when the rice kettle washing is completed.

10. (New) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the rice kettle washing means serves as the rice rinsing means, and the water supplier and the discharger are in common use for the rice rinsing and the rice kettle washing.

11 (New) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the rice kettle washing means has a brush arranged in the rice kettle and moving along an inner wall of the rice kettle when washing.

12 (New) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the rice kettle washing means has a brush arranged in the rice kettle and moving along an inner wall of the rice kettle when washing.

13. (New) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the rice kettle washing means has an ultrasonic generator propagating ultrasonic waves to water supplied into the rice kettle.

14. (New) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the rice kettle washing means has an ultrasonic generator propagating ultrasonic waves to water supplied into the rice kettle.

15. (New) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the rice kettle washing means has an ultrasonic generator propagating ultrasonic waves to water supplied into the rice kettle.

16. (New) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the discharger has a suction port vertically movable to the lower limit position above an inner bottom surface of the rice kettle by a predetermined distance.

17. (New) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the discharger has a suction port vertically movable to the lower limit position above an inner bottom surface of the rice kettle by a predetermined distance.

18. (New) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the discharger has a suction port vertically movable to the lower limit position above an inner bottom surface of the rice kettle by a predetermined distance.

19. (New) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the discharger has a suction port vertically movable to the lower limit position above an inner bottom surface of the rice kettle by a predetermined distance.

20. (New) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the discharger has a suction port vertically movable to the lower limit position above an inner bottom surface of the rice kettle by a predetermined distance.

21. (New) The automatic rice cooking apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the discharger has a suction port vertically movable to the lower limit position above an inner bottom surface of the rice kettle by a predetermined distance.